

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 L-03 /059 W

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R 231633Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3553

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BISSAU

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

MTN GENEVA 234

AMEMBASSY LOME

UNCLAS ACCRA 5381

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: ECIN, GH

SUB: ECOWAS

REF: A) ACCRA 4542 (NOTAL), B) ABIDJAN 5574 (NOTAL),

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. FIRST ECOWAS MINISTERIAL COUNCIL OPENDED
AT ACCRA JULY 20 BY HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG. THEREAFTER CLOSED
SESSIONS CONSIDERED FIVE DRAFT PROTOCOLS, OF WHICH ONLY TWO
AGREED BY SCHEDULED COUNCIL CLOSING 22ND. COUNCIL EXTENDED
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TO CONSIDER REMAINING THREE. DECISION ON HQ SITE AND

SECRETARY GENERAL DEFERRED TO FORTHCOMING SUMMIT, FOR WHICH DATE AND SITE NOT YET AGREED. END SUMMARY.

2. HEAD OF STATE GEN. I.K. ACHEAMPONG OPENED FIRST ECOWAS MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ACCRA JULY 20 WITH SPEECH EMPHASIZING LDC AND RREGIONAL SELF-RELIANCE; HE BLAMED MANY LDC PROBLEMS ON DC'S AND THEIR MNC'S AND SUGGESTED ONLY WAT YOU WAS FOR LDC'S TO HELP THEMSELVES. HE URGED AGREEMENT ON THE PROTOCOLS AND ON HEADQUARTERS SITE AND SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ECOWAS, AND ON PREPARATION FOR EARLY SUMMIT. CALLED FOR GUIDANCE BY "WELL-TRIED PROCEDURES" IN SUCH INSTITUTIONS AS AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK. (COMMENT: AFDB PRESIDENT-ELECT IS GHANAIAAN). HE PAID TRIBUTE TO TOGO AND NIGERIA FOR PAVING WAY TO ECOWAS.

3. ACHEAMPONG CALLED FOR RULES OF ORIGIN PROTOCOL TO SPECIFY THAT PREFERENTIAL TARIFF TREATMENT ONLY BE ACCORDED FOR PRODUCTS OF FIRMS IN WHICH MAJORITY OWNERSHIP HELD BY ECOWAS NATIONALS.

4. SESSIONS DID NOT END AS SCHEDULED ON AFTERNOON JULY 22. REPORTEDLY THE CLOSED SESSIONS HAD AGREED ON PROTOCOLS ON BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS AND ON RE-EXPORTATION; THOSE ON LOSS OF REVENUE AND COMPENSATION, A COOPERATION FUND, AND DEVELOPMENT REMAINED TO BE HAMMERED OUT.

5. DECISIONS ON HEADQUARTERS SITE AND SECRETARY GENERAL APPEAR TO BE DEFERRED TO FORTHCOMING SUMMIT, DATE AND PLACE OF WHICH UNDECIDED.

6. WILL REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.
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